

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/FOI:FWTULLY:JH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

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TOSEC 49, WHITE HOUSE PASS TO SALZBURG

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith TEXT RICHARD WILSON OP-ED COLUMN MONDAY JUNE 10
WASHINGTON STAR NEWS HEADED "CALL FOR KISSINGER CANDOR"

2. HENRY A. KISSINGER'S NEWEST PROBLEM IS NOT A SMALL ONE.
IT INVOLVES WHETHER OR NOT HE TOLD THE WHOLE TRUTH WHEN HE
CATEGORICALLY STATED UNDER OATH THAT HE HAD NO PART IN
INITIATING WIRETAPS IN 1969-70 ON SOME OF HIS AIDES AND NEWS-
MEN IN SEARCH OF EVIDENCE OF THEIR COMPLICITY IN DISCLOSING
SENSITIVE AND SECRET NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION.

3. HIS TESTIMONY UNDER OATH WAS UNEQUIVOCAL. HE SWORE UNDER
QUESTIONING BY SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT THAT NOT A SINGLE
ONE OF THE 17 WIRETAPS AUTHORIZED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS
INITIATED BY KISSINGER;

4. HE HAD SUPPLIED SOME NAMES OF THOSE WITH ACCESS TO THE
KIND OF INFORMATION IN QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL
CRITERIA OF A PREVIOUS DECISION ON PROTECTING THE NATIONAL
SECURITY. AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN, KISSINGER ADDED, THAT THE
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FBI UNDER J. EDGAR HOOVER MAY HAVE HAD A DIFFERENT PERCEP-

TION OF WHAT WAS CALLED FOR. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUR-
PRISING, BECAUSE THE FBI BASED ITS PERCEPTIONS ON WIRETAP

AUTHORIZATIONS RECEIVED FROM ATTY. GEN. JOHN MITCHELL.

5. SOMEWHERE IN HERE THERE ARE SOME GAPS AND IN ALL THE
GLORY OF HIS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES, SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE COMPELLED TO FILL THEM IN.
THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS HEARD A DIFFERENT STORY
THAN KISSINGER TOLD FULBRIGHT. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN
INFORMED BY ITS INVESTIGATIVE STAFF THAT KISSINGER'S
INVOLVEMENT WAS MORE DIRECT. AND A NEW REVELATION OF
PRESIDENT NIXON'S CONVERSATIONS HAS HIM SAYING THAT
KISSINGER "ASKED THAT IT BE DONE."

6. SO, IT IS THE OLD STORY. DENIALS AND INJURED
INNOCENCE WHERE COMPLETE CANDOR IS CALLED FOR. KISSINGER
WILL HAVE TO SAY MORE AND HE MAY AS WELL SAY IT NOW.

7. WHO CAN SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT KISSINGER WAS ANGRY AND
PERTURBED OVER THE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF FINAL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS ON STRATEGIC ARMS
LIMITATION? THIS INFORMATION AND MORE WAS IN THE PUBLIC
DOMAIN AND, WHERE COULD IT HAVE COME FROM?

8. AS THE WORKING HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
AT THE TIME, KISSINGER AND HIS TOP AIDE, GEN. ALEXANDER
M. HAIG, WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLS NOT TO SUSPECT SOMEONE IN
THE NSC STAFF. THEY COULD REASONABLY CONCLUDE THAT SUCH
LEAKS OF INFORMATION WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERMINING
POLICY LINES WITH WHICH THE LEAKERS DISAGREED, BY EXPOSING
THEM TO PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. INTERNAL
SABOTAGE IS NOT UNKNOWN AT THESE HIGH LEVELS WHERE
INTRIGUE IS IMBIBED WITH THE FOOD IN THE WHITE HOUSE MESS
AND WILL COLLIDE OVER TRIFLES.

9. ANYWAY, EXACTLY HOW WRONG WAS IT TO TRY TO RUN DOWN
LEAKS OF INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS THE
NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH DULY AUTHORIZED WIRETAPS? THAT
QUESTION WOULD BE EASIER TO ANSWER IF THE WIRETAPS HAD
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PRODUCED THE EVIDENCE SOUGHT; BUT THEY REVEALED ONLY SUCH
SECURITY INFORMATION AS AN INTEREST IN PORNOGRAPHIC BOOK-
SHOPS AND HINTS OF AN EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR. LIKE SO MUCH
ELSE IN THE WATERGATE ATMOSPHERE, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE
FARCICAL.

10. KISSINGER'S PROBLEM NOW, AND WHY HE HAS NOT FACED IT
BEFORE TELLS TOO MUCH ABOUT THE CONSPIRATORIAL ATMOSPHERE,

IS TO JUSTIFY PUBLICLY WHAT HE DID TO PLUG THE LEAKS WHICH WERE EMBARRASING HIM AND THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, AND WHY HE DID IT. KISSINGER IS NOT SO INNOCENT OF INTRIGUE THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN WHAT THE SUPPLYING OF NAMES OF SUSPECTED LEAKERS MIGHT LEAD TO.

11. HE ADMITS THAT HE DID SUPPLY NAMES AND THAT ACT ALONE IS IRRETRIEVABLE WHETHER OR NOT HE MADE A "DIRECT" RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS KIND OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. KISSINGER WAS INVOLVED FROM THAT POINT ONWARD, AND THERE ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS THAT HE ANGRILY DEMANDED ACTION FROM FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT THE WHOLE BUSINESS.

12. THE SAD PART OF THIS IS THAT KISSINGER HAS GOTTEN INTO A PROBLEM AT A TIME WHEN HIS SUCCESS WAS SO GREAT, BUT HE IS NOT ALONE IN THAT. NOR IS HE ALONE IN SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF COMPLETE CANDOR WHEN FIRST CONFRONTED WITH SUSPICIONS HE CONSIDERED WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED. PRESIDENT NIXON LED THE WAY DOWN THAT PATH. SISCO

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